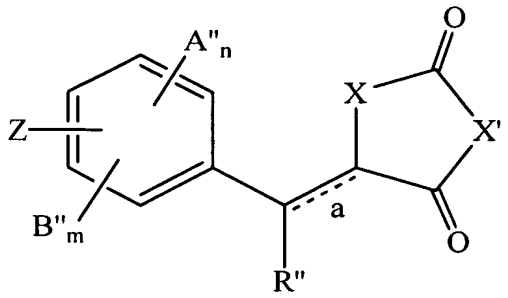
Amendments to the Claims:

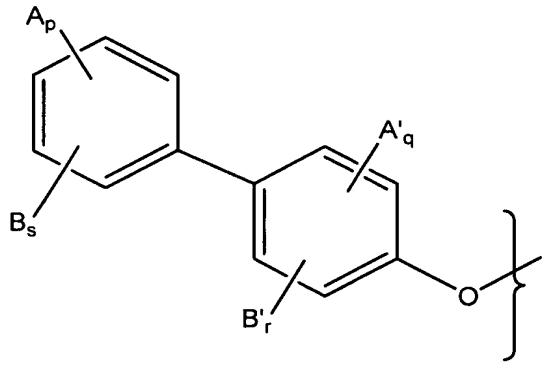
The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following Formula 1:



[1]

wherein Z is



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that n + m ≤ 4 and q + r ≤ 4; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that p + s ≤ 5; a represents a double bond which may be present or absent; when present, the double bond may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, ~~the~~ any resulting stereocenter may have the R- or S- configuration;

R" independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'", -NH_2, -NHR'", -NR_2'", -OH, -OR'", a halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; $-(CH_2)_x$-Ar-where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counterion;

A and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

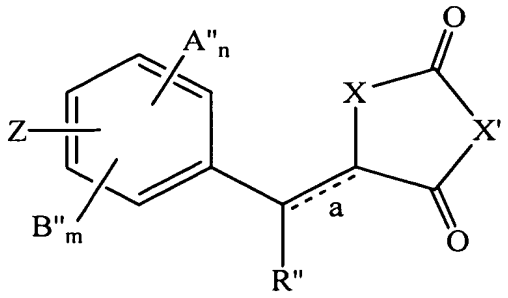
B and B' each independently represent C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl, aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

or A and B jointly or A' and B' jointly independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

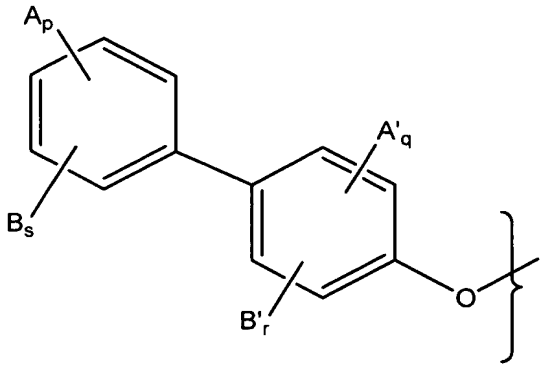
2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

wherein Z is



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that n + m ≤ 4 and q + r ≤ 4; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that p + s ≤ 5; a represents a double bond which may be present or absent; when present, the double bond may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, ~~the~~ any resulting stereocenter may have the R- or S- configuration;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2, -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH, -OR''', a halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; –$(CH_2)_x$-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counterion;

A and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B and B' each independently represent C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl, aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

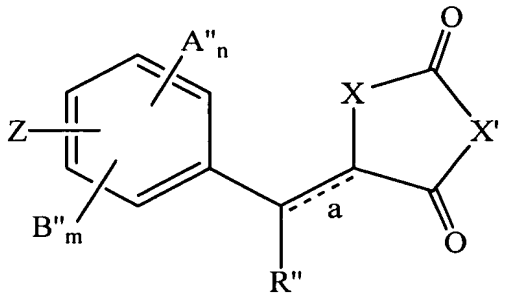
or A and B jointly or A' and B' jointly independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR"', -O-, or -S-;

in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

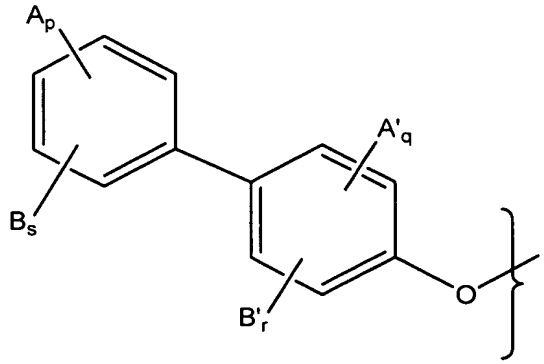
4. (Cancelled).

5. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) A method of treating diabetes comprising: administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

wherein Z is



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a represents a double bond which may be present or absent; when present, the double bond may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenter may have the R- or S- configuration;

R" independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R"', -NH_2, -NHR"', -NR_2"', -OH, -OR"', a halogen

atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; $-(CH_2)_x$-Ar, where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counterion;

A and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B and B' each independently represent C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl, aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

or A and B jointly or A' and B' jointly independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

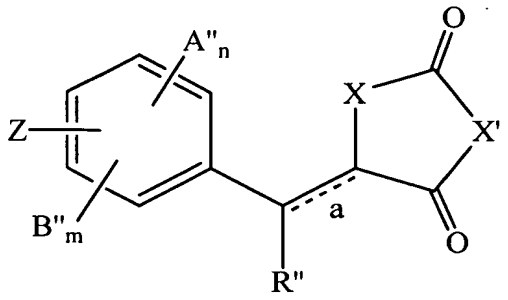
X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-;

in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

6. (Cancelled).

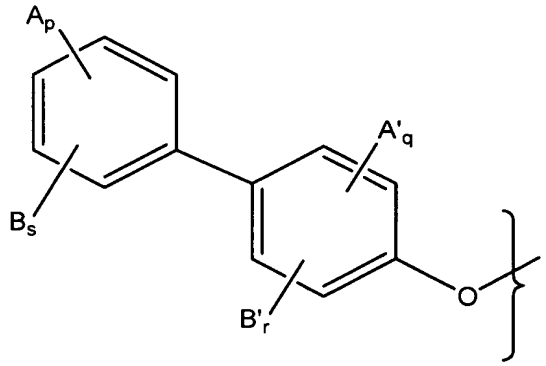
7. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) A method of treating inflammation or inflammatory disease comprising:

administering to a subject suffering from such condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

wherein Z is



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m \leq 4$ and $q + r \leq 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s \leq 5$; a represents a double bond which may be present or absent; when present, the double bond may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenter may have the R- or S- configuration;

R" independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$, $-NH_2$, $-NHR'''$, $-NR_2'''$, -OH, $-OR'''$, a halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; $-(CH_2)_x$-Ar–where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counterion;

A and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B and B' each independently represent C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl, aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

or A and B jointly or A' and B' jointly independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

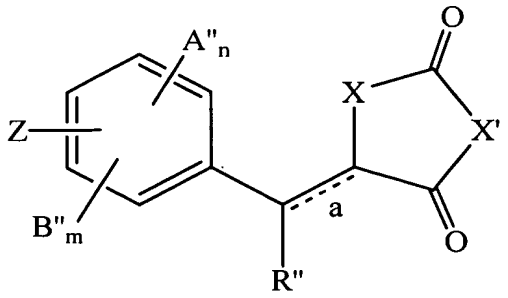
X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR"', -O-, or -S-;

in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

8. (Cancelled).

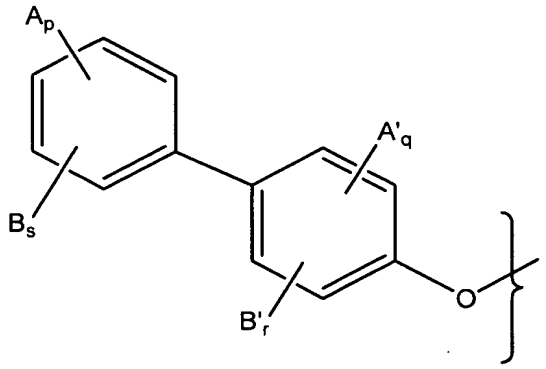
9. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) A method of treating immunological disease comprising:

administering to a subject suffering from an immunological disease, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

wherein Z is



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that n + m ≤ 4 and q + r ≤ 4; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that p + s ≤ 5; a represents a double bond which may be present or absent; when present, the double bond may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenter may have the R- or S- configuration;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; -CO_2Z'; -CO_2R'''; -NH_2, -NHR'''; -NR_2'''; -OH, -OR''', a halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl; –$(CH_2)_x$-Ar–where x represents an integer from 1 to 6 and Ar represents aryl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counterion;

A and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C_1-C_{20} acylamino; C_1-C_{20} acyloxy; C_1-C_{20} alkanoyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl; C_1-C_{20} alkoxy; C_1-C_{20} alkylamino; C_1-C_{20} alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B and B' each independently represent C_2-C_{20} alkenoyl; aroyl, aralkanoyl; nitro; optionally substituted, linear or branched C_1-C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted linear or branched C_2-C_{20} alkenyl;

or A and B jointly or A' and B' jointly independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR"', -O-, or -S-;

in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting the activity of TNF-alpha, IL-1, IL-6 or COX-2 which comprises administering to a host in need of such inhibition an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of inhibiting the undesired action of cytokines or cyclooxygenase which comprises administering to a host in need of such inhibition an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of treating a disease mediated by cytokines or cyclooxygenase which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment a compound according to claim 1.

14. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of treating insulin resistance which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of treating hyperlipidemia which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

16. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of treating coronary heart disease which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of treating multiple sclerosis which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

18. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The method of treating cancer which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

19. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

5-[4-(4'-methoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzylidene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[4-(4'-methoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[4-(2',4'-dimethoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzylidene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione, and
5-[4-(2',4'-dimethoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione.

20. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of:

5-[4-(4'-methoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzylidene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione;
5-[4-(4'-methoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione;
5-[4-(2',4'-dimethoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzylidene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione; and
5-[4-(2',4'-Dimethoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

together with a physiologically acceptable carrier therefore.

21. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) A method for treating diabetes comprising: co-administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and an agent selected from the group consisting of:

insulin or an insulin mimetic,
a sulfonylurea or other insulin secretagogue,
a thiazolidinedione,
a fibrate or other PPAR-alpha agonist,
a PPAR-delta agonist,
a biguanide,
a statin or other hydroxymethylglutaryl (HMG) CoA reductase inhibitor,
an alpha-glucosidase inhibitor,
a bile-acid binding resin,
apoA1,
niacin,
probucol,
and nicotinic acid.

22. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) A method for treating inflammatory or immunological disease, comprising: co-administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and an agent selected from the group consisting of:

a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID),
a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor,
a corticosteroid or other immunosuppressive agent,
a disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD),
a TNF-alpha inhibitor,
other cytokine inhibitor,
other immune modulating agent,
and a narcotic agent.

23-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X represents -S-; and X' represents >NH.

26. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 25, wherein A independently is C_1-C_{20} alkoxy and p is 1 or 2.

27. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 26, wherein m, n, q, r and s are zero.

28. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 27, wherein the bond identified by a is a single bond.

29. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 28, wherein R" represents a hydrogen atom.

30. (New) A compound of the chemical name 5-[4-(2',4'-Dimethoxybiphenyl-3-yloxy)-benzyl]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione.